

Committee Notes – Joint Meeting

Security Committee- Hollywood Entertainment District, Sunset and Vine BID

May 12, 2015

Salvation Army The Way In

Attendance: **HED Committee Members present:** John Tronson, Carol Massie. Not present: Monica Yamada, Frank Babitch, Chad Lewis, Derrick Malec. **SVBID Committee Members present:** Fred Rosenthal, Fabio Conti. Not present: Elizabeth McDonald, Anthony Bell. **Liaisons:** Joe Salazar, Bill Farrar, John Adams, Steve Seyler, John Muldoon, Shirley Schumacher, Andrews International. Sgt. Ben Fernandez, Senior Lead Officer Irv Isabella, Captain Dave Storaker, LAPD. **Staff:** Kerry Morrison, Joseph Mariani. **Guests:** ; Karen Weiner, Carlos Gonzalez, The Salvation Army.

- I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by John Tronson at 10:13 a.m.
- II. Public Comment: Karen Wiener invited everyone to visit the property on Monday May 18 between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. They have invited in several street artists who will be painting blank walls in the various buildings. Everyone is welcome to come watch.
- III. Meeting Notes: The committee reviewed the meeting notes from their April 9, 2015 meeting.
- IV. New Business

A. New format for progress tracking: John Tronson advised the committee that staff had created a new format to help keep track of issues – so that committee and board members would be apprised of what current priorities are and where some issues might be “parked.” Morrison presented a draft matrix and invited input from the committee members. The report covered two strategic goal areas:

- Safe Hollywood Sidewalks
- Safe Hollywood Nights

In each chart, issues were divided by five categories: Urgent/Pressing; In Process; Monitoring; Accomplished; Parked. She presented the highlights of pressing or current issues for the committee’s benefit:

1. City sidewalk vending ordinance: hearings are scheduled for May 28 and June 11, 18, 25. As we get closer, she will reach out to board members from both BIDs to bring a business voice to the hearings.
2. Homeless count: Morrison shared the highlights of the official homeless count numbers released by LAHSA earlier in the week. Citywide, the count is up 12 percent. There was an 85% increase in encampments, vehicles and tents. Morrison also shared that the photo in the Los Angeles Times used to illustrate homelessness in Los Angeles was that of Richard McFarthing, well-known to the community dating back to 2006. She indicated that she had reached out to the LA Times this week to offer up his story as one where there has been significant effort to try to help him. He is #1 on the Hollywood 4WRD Top 14 list.
3. Campaign to discourage panhandling: Morrison handed out a draft of a card that would be distributed to visitors and residents that addresses the fact that they don’t have to tip characters or CD vendors, and are encouraged to give to charity, not panhandlers. It will direct people to a website, www.hollywoodsafesidewalks.com, that will respond to Q and A and also list local nonprofits that will accept donations of money or goods or volunteers. Committee members were invited to provide feedback.
4. Substance abuse recovery: She also mentioned a meeting held in the office of Supervisor Sheila Kuehl to discuss a pilot project to create a sobering station for people who are inebriated or on a substance. It would be staffed by peer supporters, who are in recovery. Discussion with several agencies involved centered on whether it would be possible to secure a grant for such a project.

V. PARTNER REPORTS

A. Andrews International: Steve Seyler shared the highlights of his report for the period March 30 through May 3, 2015. Calls are up by 165 compared to this time last year. In addition to notable arrests and homeless outreach, he catalogued items described as “hostile encounters” as this has been a trend in the past year.

B. Report from LAPD: Sgt. Fernandez reported that crime stats are up for robberies, GTA and BFV. They are down for burglaries and sexual assaults. There was discussion about how important it is to get the word out to people that they cannot leave anything in their cars that can be taken. It was also noted that the recent march to acknowledge the Armenian Genocide generated a crowd of 120,000 marchers – much higher than anyone planned. Only 120 officers were deployed, and he credits the significant planning done with the march organizers that would allow for such a large ratio of marchers to law enforcement.

There were no representatives on hand from LA County Sheriff, Neighborhood Prosecutor or City Council office.

VI. Next Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 11, 2015.

VII. Adjournment: There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.